VZCZCXRO8475 OO RUEHAG RUEHROV DE RUEHTH #0338 0671328 ZNY CCCCC ZZH O 071328Z MAR 08 FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1383 INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 0252 RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0283 RUEHSB/AMEMBASSY HARARE PRIORITY 0016 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY 0618 RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0396 RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY 0983 RUEHVJ/AMEMBASSY SARAJEVO PRIORITY 0085 RUEHSO/AMEMBASSY SKOPJE PRIORITY 1155 RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0600 RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA PRIORITY 1316 RUEHVB/AMEMBASSY ZAGREB PRIORITY 0346 RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY 0219 RUEHTH/AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI PRIORITY 1825 RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0303 RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA PRIORITY 0354

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ZAGREB ALSO FOR BELGRADE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/05/2018

TAGS: PREL PGOV EU ZL PK AFIN ZI IR GG IS SY LE

GR

SUBJECT: GAERC DEMARCHE: GREECE EXPECTS "NO DECISIONS"

REF: STATE 22352

Classified By: A/Political Counselor Jeff Hovenier for 1.4 (b) and (d)

(C) A/Political Counselor delivered reftel points March 5 in advance of the March 10 - 11 GAERC meeting of EU Foreign Ministers to Antonia Katzoulou, the GAERC coordinator in the MFA All Directorate for Commmon Foreign and Security Policy. After reviewing the points, Katzoulou told us March 6 that Greece believes "this GAERC will not take any decisions."

She termed the U.S. points "helpful," adding that most were "well known positions." She said that the COREPER is still ongoing, and it may decide to defer discussion of Afghanistan and Pakistan to the April GAERC. Her only substantive comment was on the U.S. request related to Iranian sanctions. She noted that the U.S. had asked that the EU adopt the new UN sanctions as quickly as possible, and that the EU sanctions go beyond the specific lists of individuals and entities designated in the new UNSCR and to make mandatory the voluntary provisions in the UNSCR. Katzoulou said she could not predict how the GAERC discussion would go, but said that Greece believes it best to assess implementation of the new UNSCR before deciding on any additional EU sanctions. **SPECKHARD**